

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **MEXICAN NATIONAL CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTATION OF ILLEGAL ALIENS**

Springfield, Illinois -- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury today returned an indictment charging Lorenzo Cordero-Guzman, no age or address available, with transportation of illegal aliens.

Guzman was charged in a criminal complaint in November 2005, and was ordered detained pending trial. The affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint alleged that on November 13, 2005, Illinois State Police stopped Guzman on Interstate 55 near Elkhart, Illinois. After stopping the vehicle for a having an obstructed windshield, officers allegedly found 19 occupants, including an infant and several juveniles, in the 1998 Dodge Caravan. The minivan's occupants allegedly spoke little English and had no official documentation.

The affidavit further alleges that Guzman was expecting payment of \$1,000 for transporting the passengers from Phoenix, Arizona, to Chicago. When the adult passengers were questioned, they allegedly said they had paid smuggling fees ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 each.

Guzman will be arraigned in federal court in Springfield at a date to be determined by the U.S. District Clerk. If convicted, the offense of transportation of illegal aliens carries a maximum statutory penalty of five years in prison and deportation if found to be illegally in the United States.

The charge is the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Esteban F. Sanchez.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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